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Area Wage Survey
Meridian, MS
August 1985

U.S. Department of Labor
Bureau of Labor Statistics
Summary
September 1985

This summary presents results of an August 1985 survey of occupational wages in the Meridian area, which consists of Lauderdale County. This is 1 of 99 areas which the Bureau of Labor Statistics surveys at the request of the Employment Standards Administration of the U.S. Department of Labor for use in administering the Service Contract Act of 1965. In addition, the Bureau conducts more extensive studies of occupational wages and related benefits in 71 other areas throughout the United States. For information on these reports and other Bureau publications, contact any BLS regional office identified on the back page. This is one of 9 areas that include data for civilian workers in Federal, State, and local governments as well as private industry.

This study covered establishments employing 50 workers or more in manufacturing; transportation, communication, and other public utilities; wholesale trade; retail trade; finance, insurance, and real estate; and selected services; and government. A sample of 51 establishments employing 11,951 workers was selected to represent 79 establishments employing 15,535 workers in the area. (See table 2 for further information on the scope of the survey.) Data collected in the sample of establishments were projected to represent all establishments within the scope of the survey.

Table 1 provides hourly earnings information on office and plant workers employed in selected occupations common to a variety of industries. Occupational classification was based on a uniform set of job descriptions designed to take account of variations in job duties among establishments. The job descriptions used in the survey are available on request.

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Table 1. Hourly earnings[1] of selected occupations in Meridian, MS, August 1985

Occupation[2]	Number of workers	Hourly earnings (all workers)[1]			Number of workers receiving straight-time hourly earnings (in dollars) of —																				
		Mean	Median	Middle range	3.35 and under 3.50	3.50 – 4.00	4.00 – 4.50	4.50 – 5.00	5.00 – 5.50	5.50 – 6.00	6.00 – 6.50	6.50 – 7.00	7.00 – 7.50	7.50 – 8.00	8.00 – 8.50	8.50 – 9.00	9.00 – 9.50	9.50 – 10.00	10.00 – 10.50	10.50 – 11.00	11.00 – 11.50	11.50 – 12.00	12.00 – 13.00	13.00 – 14.00	14.00 – 15.00	15.00 and over
Secretaries	31	7.74	6.92	6.08– 8.15	–	–	–	–	–	6	3	7	6	1	1	–	–	3	1	–	–	–	–	3	–	–
Private industry	15	8.84	7.55	6.35–10.15	–	–	–	–	–	2	2	1	2	1	1	–	–	2	1	–	–	–	–	3	–	–
Government	16	6.71	6.80	5.98– 7.06	–	–	–	–	–	4	1	6	4	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Secretaries I	23	7.43	6.88	6.00– 7.23	–	–	–	–	–	5	3	7	4	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	–
Private industry	9	8.47	6.88	– –	–	–	–	–	–	2	2	1	1	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	–
Government	14	6.76	6.80	– –	–	–	–	–	–	3	1	6	3	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Typists	34	6.26	6.23	4.72– 7.21	–	–	7	3	2	3	6	2	6	1	2	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–
Government	14	6.79	6.41	– –	–	–	–	–	–	3	5	–	3	1	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Typists I	25	5.61	5.67	4.41– 6.43	–	–	7	3	2	3	4	2	3	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Government	6	5.96	5.88	– –	–	–	–	–	–	3	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Typists II:																										
Government	8	7.41	7.32	– –	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	3	1	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Switchboard operators	12	5.40	5.16	– –	–	–	1	5	1	1	1	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Private industry	8	5.18	4.80	– –	–	–	–	5	1	–	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Key entry operators	29	5.96	6.06	5.19– 7.17	1	2	–	3	5	3	4	3	6	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Private industry	28	5.93	5.93	5.05– 7.27	1	2	–	3	5	3	4	2	6	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Key entry operators I	25	5.98	6.10	5.00– 7.30	1	2	–	3	5	–	3	3	6	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Private industry	24	5.94	6.09	4.82– 7.30	1	2	–	3	5	–	3	2	6	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Computer operators	18	7.02	6.67	6.16– 7.00	–	–	–	1	–	2	5	4	3	1	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–
Private industry	17	6.87	6.65	6.16– 7.00	–	–	–	1	–	2	5	4	3	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–
Computer operators I	10	6.36	6.40	– –	–	–	–	1	–	1	3	2	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Private industry	10	6.36	6.40	– –	–	–	–	1	–	1	3	2	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Computer operators II	8	7.85	6.84	– –	–	–	–	–	–	1	2	2	–	1	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–
Private industry	7	7.61	6.70	– –	–	–	–	–	–	1	2	2	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–
Electronics technicians:																										
Government	44	13.92	13.12	13.12–14.55	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	8	21	6	*8
Electronics technicians II:																										
Government	34	13.19	13.12	12.94–13.62	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	8	21	4	–
Electronics technicians III:																										
Government	10	16.38	16.35	– –	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	*8
Firefighters	119	8.43	7.79	7.05– 9.28	–	–	–	–	–	–	16	5	22	27	6	9	8	1	7	7	2	3	1	1	4	–
Government	119	8.43	7.79	7.05– 9.28	–	–	–	–	–	–	16	5	22	27	6	9	8	1	7	7	2	3	1	1	4	–
Maintenance electricians	43	12.17	11.26	9.89–15.57	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	1	–	4	–	10	2	1	2	–	2	3	–	*16
Private industry	34	12.77	13.17	9.89–15.57	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	–	10	2	–	–	–	–	3	–	16
Government	9	9.91	10.81	– –	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	1	–	1	–	–	–	1	2	–	2	–	–	–
Maintenance painters	11	7.51	5.02	– –	–	–	–	–	6	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	3	–	–	–	–
Government	11	7.51	5.02	– –	–	–	–	–	6	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	3	–	–	–	–
Maintenance mechanics (machinery)	69	11.41	9.89	9.10–15.57	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	15	–	–	5	21	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	*26
Private industry	67	11.58	9.89	9.10–15.57	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	15	–	–	5	21	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	26
Motor vehicle mechanics	30	10.40	11.26	7.52–12.60	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	6	2	–	1	4	–	–	–	3	–	9	4	–	–
Private industry	13	9.35	9.10	– –	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	4	2	–	–	4	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	–	–
Government	17	11.21	12.16	11.26–12.60	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	2	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	3	–	9	1	–	–
General maintenance workers	32	5.47	5.42	4.79– 5.98	–	2	3	6	8	5	4	1	1	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Private industry	15	4.96	4.79	4.35– 5.50	–	2	2	5	1	2	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Government	17	5.92	5.42	5.42– 6.43	–	–	1	1	7	3	1	1	1	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Stationary engineers:																										
Government	7	11.82	11.94	– –	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	7	–	–	–	–
Truckdrivers	82	7.11	6.04	5.38– 7.50	–	–	–	6	16	17	12	10	–	3	–	–	2	4	1	–	3	–	–	8	–	–
Private industry	42	7.61	6.47	5.50– 7.98	–	–	–	6	2	7	6	8	–	3	–	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	8	–	–
Government	40	6.59	5.86	5.28– 6.47	–	–	–	–	14	10	6	2	–	–	–	–	2	2	1	–	3	–	–	–	–	–
Truckdrivers, light truck	11	7.18	6.10	– –	–	–	–	–	–	5	2	–	–	–	–	–	2	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Private industry	7	5.80	5.96	– –	–	–	–	–	–	5	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Truckdrivers, heavy truck:																										
Government	38	6.26	5.65	5.24– 6.08	–	–	–	–	14	10	6	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	3	–	–	–	–	–
Truckdrivers, tractor-trailer	24	8.51	6.65	5.63–13.73	–	–	–	2	2	2	4	6	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	8	–	–
Private industry	24	8.51	6.65	5.63–13.73	–	–	–	2	2	2	4	6	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	8	–	–

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Hourly earnings[1] of selected occupations in Meridian, MS, August 1985 —Continued

Occupation[2]	Number of workers	Hourly earnings (all workers)[1]			Number of workers receiving straight-time hourly earnings (in dollars) of —																			
		Mean	Median	Middle range	3.35 and under 3.50	3.50 – 4.00	4.00 – 4.50	4.50 – 5.00	5.00 – 5.50	5.50 – 6.00	6.00 – 6.50	6.50 – 7.00	7.00 – 7.50	7.50 – 8.00	8.00 – 8.50	8.50 – 9.00	9.00 – 9.50	9.50 – 10.00	10.00 – 10.50	10.50 – 11.00	11.00 – 11.50	11.50 – 12.00	12.00 – 13.00	13.00 – 14.00	14.00 – 15.00	15.00 and over
Shipping packers	35	4.94	4.00	4.00– 5.25	1	5	12	6	4	–	–	–	4	–	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Private industry	35	4.94	4.00	4.00– 5.25	1	5	12	6	4	–	–	–	4	–	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Material handling laborers	44	5.85	6.10	5.35– 6.29	–	–	1	3	9	8	23	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Private industry	44	5.85	6.10	5.35– 6.29	–	–	1	3	9	8	23	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Forklift operators	54	6.66	6.35	5.94– 8.21	–	–	2	4	6	7	10	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Private industry	54	6.66	6.35	5.94– 8.21	–	–	2	4	6	7	10	–	7	3	15	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Guards:													7	3	15	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Private industry	11	9.09	7.98	– –	–	–	–	–	1	–	4	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Government	27	6.75	7.51	5.51– 7.67	–	–	–	–	–	7	1	–	1	14	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	4	–	–
Guards I	25	7.29	6.16	5.51– 7.51	–	–	–	–	5	7	5	–	1	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Private industry	11	9.09	7.98	– –	–	–	–	–	1	–	4	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	4	–	–
Government	14	5.88	5.58	– –	–	–	–	–	4	7	1	–	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	4	–	–
Guards II:																									
Government	13	7.69	7.67	– –	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	13	–	–	–	–	2	–	3	–	–	–	–
Janitors, porters, and cleaners	188	4.61	4.26	3.61– 5.00	21	42	54	23	26	3	5	–	5	3	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Private industry	69	4.84	4.58	4.05– 5.37	6	7	21	4	18	3	2	–	–	2	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Government	119	4.47	4.14	3.52– 4.61	15	35	33	19	8	–	3	–	5	2	1	–	–	–	2	–	3	–	–	–	–
													–	1	–	–	–	–	2	–	3	–	–	–	–

[1] Excludes premium pay for overtime and for work on weekends, holidays, and late shifts. Also excluded are performance bonuses and lump-sum payments of the type negotiated in the auto and aerospace industries, as well as profit-sharing payments, attendance bonuses, Christmas or year-end bonuses, and other nonproduction bonuses. Cost of living allowances and incentive payments, however, are included. Hourly earnings reported for salaried workers are derived from regular salaries divided by the corresponding standard hours of work. The wages of learners, apprentices, and handicapped workers are excluded. The mean is computed for each job by totaling the earnings of all workers and dividing by the number of workers. The median designates position—one-half of the workers receive the same as or more and one-half receive the same as or less than the rate shown. The middle range is defined by two rates of pay, one-fourth of the workers earn the same as or less than the lower of these rates and one-fourth earn the same as or more than the higher rate.

[2] For occupations with more than one level, data are included in the overall classification when a subclassification is not shown or information to subclassify is not available.

[3] Workers were distributed as follows: 1 at $15.00 to $16.00, 3 at $16.00 to $17.00, 3 at $17.00 to $18.00, and 1 at $18.00 to $19.00.

[4] Workers were distributed as follows: 1 at $15.00 to $16.00, 3 at $16.00 to $17.00, 3 at $17.00 to $18.00, and 1 at $18.00 to $19.00.

[5] All workers were at $15.00 to $16.00.

[6] All workers were at $15.00 to $16.00.

Table 2. Establishments and workers within scope of survey and number studied in private industry and government in Meridian, Miss.,[1] August 1985

Industry division[2]	Minimum employment in establishments in scope of survey	Number of establishments		Workers in establishments			
		Within scope of survey[3]	Studied	Within scope of survey[4]		Studied
				Number	Percent	
All divisions	50	77	49	15,535	100	11,941
Private industry	50	68	40	10,923	70	7,329
Manufacturing	50	28	16	6,232	40	4,335
Nonmanufacturing[5]	50	40	24	4,691	30	2,994
Government[6]	50	9	9	4,612	30	4,612

[1] The Meridian area consists of Lauderdale County. The "workers within scope of survey" estimates shown in this table provide a reasonably accurate description of the size and composition of the labor force included in the survey. The estimates are not intended, however, to serve as a basis of comparison with other statistical series for the area to measure employment trends or levels since (1) planning of wage surveys requires the use of establishment data compiled considerably in advance of the payroll period studied, and (2) small establishments are excluded from the scope of the survey.

[2] The 1972 edition of the Standard Industrial Classification Manual was used in classifying establishments by industry division.

[3] Includes all establishments with total employment at or above the minimum limitation. All outlets of companies in such industries as trade, finance, auto repair service, and motion picture theaters (within a Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area or nonmetropolitan county) are considered as one establishment.

[4] Includes all workers in all establishments with total employment (within the area) at or above the minimum limitation.

[5] Includes transportation, communication, and other public utilities (excluding taxicabs and services incidental to water transportation); wholesale trade; retail trade; finance, insurance, and real estate; hotels and other lodging places; laundries and other personal services; automobile repair, rental, and parking; motion pictures; nonprofit membership organizations (excluding religious and charitable organizations); engineering and architectural services; and miscellaneous business services. Major industries excluded from this survey are agriculture; mining; construction; and some services (notably educational institutions and medical services).

[6] Includes Federal, State, and local government. Excludes military personnel.

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